(a) whether Government has provided any financial assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for implementation of health related schemes in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of financial assistance provided, during the last three years; NGO-wise;

(c) whether Government has reviewed the functioning of these NGOs;

(d) if so, the names of the NGOs in respect of whom shortcomings have been noticed; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India provides Grant-in-aid to State Government for Health related activities under Mother NGG/Service NGO schemes. The State Government in turn provides the same to NGOs.

(b) As per the information provided by the State Government of Maharashtra, the grant-in-aid released to various organizations under Mother NGO/Service NGO Schemes, is as under.

2005-06	=	Rs.21.31 lakh
2006-07	=	Rs. 168 lakh
2007-08	=	Rs. 145 lakh
2008-09 (up to Dec. 08)	=	Rs.281 lakh

(c) to (e) Under the guidelines of the Mother NGO/Service NGO Schemes, the review and corrective action is done by the respective State Governments.

Shortage of life saving drugs

†625.SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to shortage, life saving drugs are being sold at high prices;

(b) whether any information of stock of sellers of life saving drugs is received from time to time;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the research of new life saving drugs; and

(d) the amount likely to be spend on the research of new life saving drugs by Government during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the information received from Department of Pharmaceutical, the Government has not received any report that life saving drugs are being sold at high prices due to shortage. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Department of Pharmaceuticals monitors the shortage and availability of the drugs in the country and wherever required takes remedial steps for availability of drugs by impressing manufacturers to rush the stocks at the places of shortage.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) There is no provision in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 95 for sellers of life saving drugs to submit stocks of life saving drugs to Government/NPPA.

(c) The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at SAS Nagar, Mohali, set up by Department of Pharmaceuticals is working with the help of Government's grants on drugs for Tuberculosis, Malaria and Leichmaniasis.

(d) The Government has provided a grant of Rs.15.83 crores to National institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), to work on drugs for most neglected diseases.

Shortage of vaccines

626. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has taken serious note on shortage of vaccines in the country and has urged his Ministry to explain delay in restarting public sector vaccine units;

(b) whether P.M. office has also asked his Ministry explain the reasons for their closure and the status of vaccine shortage due to stoppage of production;

(c) if so, whether in January, 2007 his Ministry has directed closure of vaccine production at Pasteur Institute of Coonoor BCG Vaccine Lab. In Chennai and Central Research Institute in Kasauli; and

(d) if so, what steps are taken to improve shortage of vaccines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) PMO sought a Status Note on the report of the closure of the Public Sector Vaccine Institutes. PMO also conveyed that PM had desired setting up of a Committee of Experts to examine the problems faced by the Institutes and suggest measures for compliance with WHO/international manufacturing standards. Pursuant to this, a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of DCG(I) was set up in April, 2008 to study, *inter alia*, the existing infrastructure/facilities available with these institutes and explore the feasibility of conversion of existing laboratories into testing laboratories, utilization of the existing facilities for setting up a residential training facility and having some of the vaccine/ante-sera production at these institutes complying with GMP. A Status Note and a copy of the report of the Expert Committee were forwarded to PMO. PMO sought to know the measures taken by Government for making vaccines available and the action taken by the Ministry and the steps taken to strengthen the three institutes.

(c) The Government has not taken any decision to close down the three Public Sector Vaccine Manufacturing Units, namely, the Central Research institute, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu and the BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The manufacturing licenses of these three Institutes were suspended by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCG) (I) in January 2008 since they were not found in compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1940.